

November 2013



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Merced/Mariposa County FSA Updates

Name County FSA Office **Changing Banks**

Office Location:

2926 G Street, Suite 103
Merced, CA 95340-2110

Contact Information:

Phone (209)722-4119 ext. 2
Fax (209)722-0974

Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Almost all Farm Service Agency payments are made electronically using direct deposit.

To keep the system running smoothly, it's critical to keep the county office staff up to date on changes you might make in your financial institutions.

If you have changed accounts or institutions that might affect the direct deposit of your FSA payments, contact the FSA county office so we can update our files to insure continued uninterrupted service.

County Committee (COC):

Arthur W. Richards, Chair
RoseAnn Serrano, Vice Chair
Simon Vander Woude, Member
Pasquale Palazzo, Member
Jose D. Vazquez, Advisor

If you plan on selling farmland, you should be aware of the consequences associated with FSA programs. For example, if you're planning to sell land that's enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, the buyer must agree to continue the enrollment. If the buyer doesn't want to continue the CRP contract, you might have to refund all of the payments you've received to date.

Reviewing program implications with your local Farm Service Agency staff before completing a sale of farmland is always a prudent precaution.

Farm Program Staff:

Garrett Pedretti, CED

Selling Land

Lydia Swilley, PT
Gizela Gover, PT
Lenai Mull, PT
Tina Frey, PT

Reporting of Fall Crops

All producers are reminded that the acreage reporting date for 2014 fall crops is December 15, 2013. This applies to all perennial forage (e.g. alfalfa, native pasture land). Please call for an appointment to certify your crops. The one year grace period for late crop reporting has expired. Producers who fail to meet the deadline will incur late filing fees.

Farm Loan Staff:

LaVon Treasure, FLM
Aileen Garcia, FLO
Laura Westerfield, FLOT
Phyllis Boyle, PT

Next COC Meeting:

January 2014

NAP Coverage Deadlines

Noninsured Crop Disaster applications are due at different times according to the crop being insured. Producers should apply for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage using form CCC-471 (Application for Coverage). Related service fees are due when the application is filed. The application and service fee **MUST** be filed by the crop sales closing date. See reporting dates below for your crops.

2014 Crop Reporting Dates

December 15, 2013	Perennial forage (e.g. rye, orchard grass, Bermuda grass, alfalfa)
January 2, 2014	NAP honey
January 15, 2014	Strawberries planted 8/16 - 11/15/2013, avocados, blueberries, grapefruit lemons, mandarins, Minneola tangelos, navel oranges, Orlando tangelos, sweet oranges, Valencia oranges, and sugar beets planted 9/1-12/13/2013
March 15, 2014	Alfalfa seed, wheat (fall and spring), almonds, apples, barley (fall), cherries, figs, apricots (FR and PR), freestone peaches (FR and PR), nectarines (FR), oats (fall), pears, plums, cling peaches (PR), prunes, and walnuts.
May 15, 2014	Grapes and table grapes
June 15, 2014	Forage for seed crops, and strawberries all other plant dates.
July 15, 2014	Alfalfa seed (spring), barley (spring), corn, cotton (Upland and ELS), cultivated wild rice, dry beans, tomatoes (FR and PR), grain sorghum, mint, oats (spring) onions, rice, safflower, and all other crops except raisins. Strawberries (all other plant dates).
July 31, 2014	Raisins

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan program to better serve the unique financial operating

needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available, should contact the local FSA office to setup an appointment with a Loan Approval Official.

Emergency Loans - Secretarial Natural Disaster Designations

As a result of these designations, the counties listed are eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Emergency (EM) loans for eligible family farmers.

The following current disaster designations have been declared by the Secretary of Agriculture:

Date Declared: 04/24/2013

Designation Code: S3511

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred February 26, 2013, through April 22, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 12/24/2013

Date Declared: 07/03/2013

Designation Code: S3547

Disaster Description: Merced, Madera, and Mariposa Counties have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on May 5, 2013, through July 1, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 03/03/2014

Date Declared: 07/31/2013

Designation Code: S3558

Disaster Description: Merced County has been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by drought, which occurred on June 4, 2013, through July 29, 2013.

Final Date to Apply: 03/31/2014

Some of the eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of normal production directly related to the cited cause,
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans,
- Be Unable to obtain credit elsewhere,

- Have adequate security,
- Have multi-peril crop insurance, if available, and
- Meet all other eligibility criteria.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).
